

# Jacobs FOSC Toolbox Topic

September 3, 2009

## Tips on Spotting

- Give audible notice that backing will occur. If the vehicle is equipped with a back-up alarm, shift the vehicle to reverse while applying the brakes. This will initiate most back-up alarms. If the vehicle is not equipped with a back-up alarm, touch the horn lightly three times before beginning the back-up maneuver.
- Use a spotter located at the left rear of the vehicle whenever backing. The driver must be able to see the spotter through the mirror and vice versa. The driver and the spotter must make eye contact. The spotter should be in a visible safe zone positioned ten (10) to fifteen (15) feet at the left rear of the vehicle. The spotter must remain visible to the driver. If the spotter disappears from the mirror, the driver must immediately stop. If you cannot see or hear the spotter, do not backup!
- Drivers and spotters must have a thorough knowledge of hand signals. (See below.)
- The spotter hand signals to the driver indicating it is safe to begin backing.
- Use side mirrors whenever backing. The driver should not attempt to lean out the window or turn around trying to see. Periodically check the right side mirror for objects in the path of the vehicle.
- Check the front corners of the vehicle, especially if the vehicle is turning while backing. Either the right or left front of the vehicle may swing around and strike a fixed object that did not initially appear to be a potential problem.
- Maintain speed control. Backing should be done at an extremely slow speed. It is imperative to maintain tight control on the speed of the emergency vehicle.

### Standard Hand Signals for Spotters

1. Straight Back — One hand above the head with palm toward face, waving back. Other hand at your side.
2. Turn — Both arms pointing the same direction with index fingers extended.
3. Stop — Both arms crossed with hands in fists. Be sure to reinforce the signal by yelling the stop order loud enough so the driver can hear.

## VPP Tip of the Week

### What happens if management disobeys a company safety rule?

- Management is subjected to same rules as employees